Aluminium and Steel Price

2203. SHRI KARIA MUNDA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to bring down the prices of Aluminium and Steel through public distribution system particularly for Aluminium Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no Government control over the pricing and distribution of Aluminium.

The prices of major categories of iron and steel materials are fixed by the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) of the main producers. There is no proposal with them to reduce prices.

[*Translation*]

National Research Centre for Temperate Climate Fish in Champavat (U.P.)

2204. SHRI JEEVAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of the National Research Centre for Temperate Climate Fish at Champavat in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which the Centre is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Sir, Raceways, nursery ponds and hatchery building are under construction and the water supply system for the ponds is almost ready.

(b) As soon as the Civil works are completed.

Applications of Freedom Fighters from Bihar

2205. SHRI SURYANARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from the Freedom Fighters of Bihar for pension during 1990 and 1991 till date;

(b) the number of applications disposed of and pending; and

(c) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The last date for receipt of applications under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme was 31st March, 1982. The applications received after that date are being treated as delayed. Such applications are considered provided they are accompanied by evidence from the official records and sufficient grounds for condonation of delay exist. During the year 1990 and upto the end of July, 1991, more than 400 applications were received. No separate record in respect of disposal of delayed applications is being maintained. As the verification of the claims through the State Governments is a time consuming process, it is not possible to indicate any time limit for the disposal of the applications.

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges in Maharashtra

2206. SHRI VILASRAO GONDWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to convert manual telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in each case?